In the Claims

1. (original) A medical records system comprising:

a central computer connected to a global computer network having a medical records database thereon, said database containing individual medical records of a plurality of patients, each of said records corresponding to one patient of said plurality of patients;

a patient computer connected to the global network remote from the central computer having a patient interface program adapted to permit a patient to input medical history and biographical information into the medical records database and to authorized a health care professional to access at least a portion of the individual medical records of the respective patient; and

a health care computer connected to the global network remote from the central computer having a health care professional interface program adapted to permit an authorized health care professional to access the portion of the individual medical records for which the health care professional has authorization and to input additional patient medical history and biographical information into the corresponding individual medical record of the database.

2. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the health care professional interface program is adapted to permit an authorized health care professional to input information into the corresponding individual medical record of the database, said information being selected from a group consisting of social history, clinical findings, laboratory test results, imaging results, physiologic findings, biochemical findings, an anatomic findings, psychological findings, psychiatric findings, pathological findings, genetic findings, and phenotypic findings.

3. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the health care professional interface program is adapted to permit an authorized health care professional to input information into the corresponding individual medical record of the

database, said information being selected from a group consisting of diagnosis, conclusions, recommendations, treatments, procedures, and outcomes.

4. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the health care computer includes a health care reference database containing information selected from a group consisting of diagnostic and protocol data, toxicology data, allergy data, immunological data, developmental data, endocrine data, cardiovascular data, gastrointestinal data, respiratory data, renal data, reproductive data, musculoskeletal data, rheumatologic data, dermatologic data, otorhynolaryngologic data, ophthalmologic data, gynecologic data, urologic data, neurological data, psychological data, psychiatric data, hepatologic data, homological data, pediatric data, rehabilitative data, genetic data, and phenotypic data.

5. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one of said individual medical records includes a watermark providing information about the record.

6. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 5 wherein said watermark comprises a 128 bit encrypted two dimensional bar code including information selected from a group consisting of ownership information, information related to source, information related to origin, information related to subject matter, and information related to access rights of the associated record.

7. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 5 wherein said central computer includes a central program adapted to analyze watermarks of individual medical records containing information selected from a group consisting of record content, source, and specific data, and to index the record for re-distribution and display.

8. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one of said individual medical records is stored in the database as an electronic document image in a lossless compression format.

9. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the health care computer includes a security program adapted to selectively limit an extent and type of information stored in the individual medical records based on a degree of confidentiality assigned by a health care provider to the medical record for limiting access to the information by the health care professionals.

10. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 9 wherein the security program identifies and logs each attempt to access records in the medical records database.

11. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 9 wherein the security program identifies and logs the patients and the health care professionals who enter and store new information in the medical records database.

12. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said medical records database includes a document image having an encrypted visual watermark thereon providing information about the document image.

13. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the information provided about the document image includes information selected from a group consisting of document ownership, origin, source, subject matter, and management of access rights.

14. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the document image includes a bar code having at least 128 bits of encrypted data arranged in two dimensions.

15. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 12 further comprising a scanner for creating the document image from a source document.

16. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the document image further comprises an encrypted digital watermark embedded in a blank space of the image and providing information about the image.

17. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the information provided about the document image is selected from a group consisting of information about the document ownership, origin, source, subject matter, and information about access rights.

18. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the document image is stored in a lossless compression format.

19. (original) A records system as set forth in claim 1 where at least one of the central computer and the health care computer includes a program adapted to integrate the user and provider information to perform at least one of authorizing recommended prescriptions, prescribing treatments, prescribing therapies, prescribing interventions, ordering laboratory tests, ordering imaging and performing studies.

20. (original) A method for providing health care services to a plurality of patients comprising:

acquiring individual medical records from each patient of the plurality of patients;

obtaining permission from a particular patient of said plurality of patients to store the individual medical record of that particular patient;

storing said records for which permission is obtained from the particular patient in a database on a central computer;

obtaining authorization from a particular patient of said plurality of patients to grant a health care professional access to at least a portion of the corresponding individual medical record of that particular patient; and

permitting the authorized health care professional to access the portion of the specific records in the database corresponding to the particular patient.

21. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising permitting a health care professional authorized by the particular patient to modify the record of the particular patient.

22. (original) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein record modification is logged.

23. (original) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein copies of previous records are retained when a record is modified.

24. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 wherein record storage is logged.

25. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 wherein record access is logged.

26. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising permitting a payer approved by the particular patient to access the record of the particular patient to verify treatment.

27. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20further comprising analyzing the record of at least one of said plurality of patients to determine whether the record is extraordinary compared to the records of other patients within said plurality of patients.

28. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising imprinting a 128 bit encrypted two dimensional bar code in a blank space on the record of at least one of said plurality patients.

29. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising performing at least one of authorizing recommended prescriptions, prescribing treatments, prescribing therapies, prescribing interventions, ordering laboratory tests, ordering imaging and performing studies.

30. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising authorizing payment of services upon satisfaction of established parameters for services.

31. (original) A method as set forth in claim 20 wherein permission to access information contained in the records is variable and depends on established parameters.

32. (original) A method for providing health care services to a plurality of patients comprising:

establishing rules for delivering and receiving health care services;

acquiring individual medical records from each patient of the plurality of patients;

requiring a particular patient of said plurality of patients to update the medical record by inputting current information;

storing said records obtained from the particular patient in a database on a central computer;

requiring authorization from the particular patient to grant a health care professional access to at least a portion of the corresponding individual medical record of that particular patient prior to receiving health care services from the health care professional;

requiring the authorized health care professional to review the portion of the record in the database corresponding to the particular patient prior to the rendering of heath care services; and

requiring the authorized health care professional to provide an accurate record of the health care services rendered.

33. (original) A method as set forth in claim 32 further comprising authorizing payment of services only when the health care professional follows the established rules for delivering health care services.

34. (original) A method as set forth in claim 32 further comprising authorizing payment of services only when the particular patient follows the established rules for delivering health care services.

35. (currently amended) A method for delivering health care while controlling interaction between users, providers, and payers through parameters and rules comprising:

determining health care service user eligibility <u>using a computing machine having access to a pre-determined criterion for health care service user eligibility saved on a machine readable memory</u>;

determining health care service provider eligibility <u>using a computing machine having access to a pre-determined criterion for health care service provider eligibility saved on a machine readable memory</u>;

establishing rules for the administration of the health care service system;

determining reasonable costs for health care products and services;

determining health care services that will be paid by the administrator or a third party;

dispersing payment to health care service providers;

ensuring availability of health care services;

eliminating unnecessary use and abuse of health care services;

guiding development of future services;

monitoring health care service users' compliance with established rules of the health care service system;

monitoring health care service providers' compliance with established rules of the health care system; and

enforcing all rules of the health care service system.

36. (original) A method as set forth in claim 35 further comprising assessing reasonable fees to health care service users.

37. (currently amended) A health care process comprising:

inputting pertinent and accurate medical and biographical data into a health care service user-controlled electronic medical records database <u>stored on a machine readable memory</u>;

seeking health care services only when necessary;

authorizing certain health care service providers access to applicable information in their biographical and medical records database;

using the provided services, products, therapies, or treatments as prescribed by the health care service provider;

reviewing data inputted by any health care service provider into the biographical and medical records database for accuracy; and

reporting any inaccuracies in the data inputted by the health care service provider.